

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

CERTIFICATE OF FEE EXEMPTION

De Minimus Impact Finding

Project Title: Amendment to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to update the chloride objectives for Reach 3 at Santa Paula in the Santa Clara River..

Project Location: In the Santa Clara River near Santa Paula in Ventura county

Project Proponent: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region
340 W. 4th Street, Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013.

Project Description:

The current Basin Plan objectives for chloride for waters of Reach 3 in the Santa Clara River are those originally set forth in the 1978 Water Quality Control Plans for the Santa Clara River Basin and Los Angeles River Basin (1978 Basin Plans). These objectives were based on the results of in-stream sampling and technical studies conducted in the late 1920s and the 1950s through 1970s. Between 1998 and 2000, Board staff completed a recommendation to modify the water quality objective from its current value of 80 mg/L to 100 mg/L based upon the collection of 25 additional years of sampling and an assessment of the beneficial use requirements. Further, the U.S. EPA completed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for chloride in this reach which re-evaluated the sources and beneficial use requirements and anticipates the modification of the WQO and new waste load allocations. In 2002, Board staff evaluated the data used for the 2002 303(d) list preparation and determined that the data resulting in the retention of the chloride listing for Reach 3 resulted from effluent flowing in the river channel before blending with receiving water. A plant serving the cities of Santa Paula and Fillmore is replacing the waste treatment plant responsible for this problem. The new and larger plant will include an improved outfall design that should ensure compliance with the standard.

Findings of Exemption: (See attached CEQA Checklist.)

The Regional Board has determined that the amendment results in no potential for adverse effect, either individually or cumulatively, on wildlife.

Certification:

I hereby certify that the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, has made the above findings of fact and that based upon the Environmental Checklist and written report and hearing record, the project will not individually or cumulatively have an adverse effect on wildlife resources as detailed in Section 711.2 of the Fish and Game Code.

Dennis A. Dickerson
Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region

Date